

**TESTIMONY OF THE  
DEPARTMENT OF INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE  
  
BEFORE THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON INLAND  
FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE  
  
IN OPPOSITION TO  
L.D. 1137**

**“An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Crossbow Hunting”**

**SPONSORED BY: Representative GERRISH of Lebanon.**

CO-SPONSORED BY: Senator COLLINS of York and  
Representatives: BLACK of Wilton, HILLIARD of Belgrade, LYFORD of Eddington,  
MASON of Lisbon, PIERCE of Dresden, SIMMONS of Waldoboro, WOOD of Greene.

**DATE OF HEARING: April 20, 2017**

Good afternoon Senator Cyrway, Representative Duchesne and members of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee. I am Tim Peabody, Deputy Commissioner at the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, speaking on behalf of the Department, in opposition to **L.D. 1137**.

L.D. 1137 expands crossbow hunting for deer into the regular archery season on deer during October. It removes the requirement that a person must have a valid hunting or archery hunting license or an apprenticeship hunter license or archery hunting license in order to hunt with a crossbow. It also lowers from 70 years of age to 65 years of age the age at which a person may hunt a wild bird or wild animal with a crossbow during any open season on that wild bird or wild animal, hunt in an expanded archery zone and hunt during muzzle-loading-only deer hunting season.

We oppose on the basis that it does not address the hunter safety requirements that are in place for firearms and traditional archery. Current law requires a person using a crossbow to have a firearms or archery license in addition to the crossbow permit. Firearms and Archery require a full safety course to purchase a license and the crossbow permit requires only an abbreviated safety course that focuses on the use of the crossbow itself.

I would be glad to answer any questions at this time or during the work session.